

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

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O 010124Z OCT 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA
USCINCEUR
DOD/JCS
CIA
USIA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - SEPTEMBER 30

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE, FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR SEPTEMBER 30, 1977. FYI
ONLY, THE OFFICER DOING THE BRIEFING WAS JOHN TRATTNER.

1.

MR. TRATTNER: IF ANY OF YOU ARE INTERESTED, I HAVE
BITS AND PIECES OF HODDING'S READOUT LAST NIGHT IN NEW YORK
--ON THE SUBJECTS OF THE SECRETARY'S BILATERALS WITH THE
FOREIGN MINISTERS OF CYPRUS, PARAGUAY, ROMANIA, GREECE,
EGYPT.

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Q. HOW ABOUT THE MEETING BETWEEN EGYPT AND SECRETARY VANCE?

A. HE WAS ASKED WHETHER ECONOMIC AID CAME UP IN THE DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH MR. FAHMI, AND HIS ANSWER WAS THAT OUR CON-
VERSATIONS WITH ALL THE PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE
NOT COME DOWN TO ECONOMIC OR MILITARY OR OTHER RELATION-
SHIPS. THEY ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY ON THE MATTER OF THE
MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT AN AL AHAM TODAY THAT EGYPTIAN

FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI, IN HIS RECENT MEETING WITH SEC-
RETARY VANCE, PRESENTED TO THE SECRETARY A NEW EGYPTIAN
PALESTINIAN FORMULA FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PLO IN
GENEVA, INCLUDING AT THE SAME TIME THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE
242 BY THE PLO? ARE YOU AWARE OF THAT REPORT OR DO YOU
HAVE ANYTHING ON IT?

A. I'M AWARE OF THE REPORT, YES. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING
TO TELL YOU MORE THAN I'VE EVER BEEN ABLE TO TELL YOU ABOUT
THESE MEETINGS, DISCUSSIONS, AND SO ON.

Q. DID YOU EVER GET A TRANSLATION OF MR. KHADDAM'S REMARKS?

A. I HAVE PURSUED THAT MATTER RATHER DILIGENTLY THIS MORNING. THE ANSWER IS THAT WE ARE RIGHT NOW IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING A TRANSCRIPT AND A TRANSLATION AND I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHEN THAT IS ALL GOING TO BE TYPED OUT. BUT IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN SEEING IT, I THINK I CAN MAKE IT AVAILABLE. I WILL ADD THAT OUR POSITION ON THE QUESTION THAT WAS OF INTEREST IN MR. KHADDAM'S REMARKS -- IS ON THE PLO AND THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- THAT POSITION OF OURS IS CLEAR AND THE PRESIDENT JUST YESTERDAY RESTATED IT.

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Q. THE PRESIDENT SAID YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD PLEDGED ISRAEL TO NEVER DEAL WITH THE PLO DIRECTLY UNTIL THEY RECOGNIZED 242. DOES THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR ANY AMERICAN AGENCY HAVE ANY PLEDGES FROM ISRAEL TO DEAL WITH THE PLO OR TO RECOGNIZE THE PLO IN THE EVENT OF ACCEPTANCE OF 242?

A. AGAIN, THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION I CANNOT GIVE YOU BECAUSE IT LIES WITHIN THE CATEGORY OF THINGS THAT WE CANNOT DISCUSS.

Q. I MEAN ARE THERE ANY MUTUAL PLEDGES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES?

A. IT'S THE SAME ANSWER.

Q. WHY IS IT THAT YOU CAN'T DISCUSS IT? I MEAN YOU WOULD KNOW. IS THERE SOMETHING HUSH-HUSH? IF ISRAEL HAS SAID THAT IF THEY RECOGNIZE 242 WE WILL DISCUSS IT WITH THEM OR IF ISRAEL HAS NOT, WHY IS THIS, WHY ARE YOU UNABLE TO TELL US?

A. LOTS OF OTHER PEOPLE HAVE ANSWERED THAT QUESTION. I WOULD REFER YOU PARTICULARLY, I THINK, TO JODY POWELL'S

RATHER ARTICULATE EXPLANATION OF THAT IN A RECENT BRIEFING, I THINK ONE DAY THIS WEEK. THE THRUST OF HIS REMARKS IS WHAT I THINK WE HAVE EXPLAINED IN A NUMBER OF OTHER NEGOTIATIONS, NOT ONLY THIS ONE, BUT ON THE SUBJECT OF OTHER NEGOTIATIONS WE HAVE HAD. THEY ARE UNDER WAY. THESE ARE VERY INTENSIVE EFFORTS. THEY ARE VERY DELICATE. WE CANNOT DISCUSS IN PUBLIC WHAT WE ARE DISCUSSING IN PRIVATE WITH THE PARTIES INVOLVED BECAUSE I THINK THAT IT WOULD BE OR COULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE ADVANCE OF THOSE

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DISCUSSIONS AND WHAT WE ARE ALL INTERESTED IN IS GETTING A SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. BUT, AS I UNDERSTOOD THE QUESTION, IT WAS DO YOU KNOW WHETHER OR NOT IN RECENT HISTORY ISRAEL HAS SAID THAT THEY WILL TALK TO THE PLO IF THEY ENDORSE 242? DO YOU THINK THAT THAT INFRINGES OR THREATENS THE DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS OR WHAT?

A. THE BASIC THING THAT I JUST FINISHED SAYING TO YOU STANDS AND WILL CONTINUE TO STAND.

Q. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE QADDUMI PLO REPRESENTATIVE HE WAS ASKED WHETHER THE PLO WOULD THEN ACCEPT ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST. QADDUMI SAID THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE IF WE WERE IN THE POSITION OF HAVING SOMETHING TANGIBLE IN HAND. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT? I MEAN ON WHAT THE OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE THE UNITED STATES OR ISRAEL HAVE IN RETURN TO OFFER THEM IF THEY RECOGNIZE 242.

A. DO I HAVE TO SAY IT AGAIN? I CANNOT GET INTO THOSE MATTERS WITH YOU FROM HERE.

Q. A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO A QUESTION WAS TAKEN AND ANSWERED ON WHETHER ISRAELI MILITARY SUPPORT FOR THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA MEN, ARTILLARY AND SO ON, VIOLATED ANY U.S. LAWS. HAS THE QUESTION ALSO BEEN LOOKED INTO AS TO WHETHER THE ACTUAL PRESENCE OF ISRAELI TROOPS AND ISRAELI TANKS ACROSS THE BORDER WAS IN ANY WAY A VIOLATION OF ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT?

A. I DON'T KNOW, AS A FACT WHETHER IT HAS BEEN LOOKED INTO. YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF ISRAELI FORCES?

Q. THE PRESENCE OF ISRAELI FORCES, WHICH WAS A LATER UNCLASSIFIED

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DEVELOPMENT THAN THE FIRST QUESTION WAS ABOUT. THE FIRST QUESTION TO WHICH YOU REPLIED, AS YOU WILL RECALL, WE CONCLUDED THAT THERE IS NO VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT

REFERRED TO ISRAELI SHELLING. SINCE THEN ISRAELI TROOPS AND ISRAELI MILITARY VEHICLES SUPPLIED BY THE U.S. WERE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IN APPARENT VIOLATION OF THE LAW. I

JUST WONDER WHETHER ANY DETERMINATION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER THERE WAS A VIOLATION OR WHETHER THERE WAS NOT AND IF NOT, WHY NOT?

A. I DON'T THINK ON THAT PARTICULAR POINT -- I AM NOT AWARE THAT IT HAS BEEN LOOKED INTO. ISRAEL HAS TOLD US IT HAD NOT TRANSFERRED ANY PARTY IN THE LEBANESE CONFLICT, ANY EQUIPMENT OF U.S. ORIGIN WHICH WOULD FALL UNDER OUR AGREEMENT THAT NO EQUIPMENT CAN BE TRANSFERRED TO THIRD PARTIES WITHOUT OUR PERMISSION. BUT YOUR QUESTION IS ON A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT, WHICH IS THE USE BY THEM --

Q. OF U.S. EQUIPMENT IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY.

A. --PURPORTED USE BY THEM IN LEBANON ITSELF.

Q. YES.

A. I DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR YOU. I CAN TRY TO GET YOU ONE.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESS OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE SEPTEMBER 29 PRESS BRIEFING:

Q. IS THERE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "SHOULD ADHERE" TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TERMS OF RESOLUTION 242 AND " MUST ACCEPT FORMALLY AND PUBLICLY" THESE TERMS?

A. THE PHRASES ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT IDENTICAL, BUT THE INTENT IN THIS CASE IS THE SAME. AS WAS POINTED OUT IN OUR ANSWER TO THE QUESTION TAKEN SEPTEMBER 19 ON THE SAME SUBJECT, WE CANNOT TELL OTHER PARTIES WHAT THEY MUST DO, BUT WE HAVE MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO ALL THE IMPORTANCE WE PLACE ON RESOLUTION 242 (AND ALSO 338). OVER RECENT DAYS WE HAVE REAFFIRMED MANY TIMES OUR FULL SUPPORT FOR THESE RESOLUTIONS, WHICH ARE THE ONLY AGREED-UPON BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS.

Q. WE ALL KNOW HOW GOVERNMENTS SHOW THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION 242, BUT HOW WOULD THE PALESTINIANS INDICATE THEIR ADHERENCE?

A. THEY COULD MAKE CLEAR AND UNAMBIGUOUS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ACCEPTING 242, INDIVIDUALLY, COLLECTIVELY OR THROUGH ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATIONS THEY LOOK TO FOR LEADERSHIP.

Q. ISN'T IT A FACT THAT THE U.S. IS COMMITTED UNDER THE

SINAI AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH ANY DEFICIT IN OIL
SUPPLIES IN ISRAEL?

A. THIS QUESTION RELATES TO CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES BE-
TWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL, AND
I CANNOT GET INTO THEM.

CHRISTOPHER

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